

24 Years Ago at JSC



Above: The Skylab crew discusses the various methods of deploying a sunshield to shade the Orbital Workshop from the Sun. The problem was caused by the loss of the micrometeorite protective shield shortly after the Skylab I launch on May 14, 1973. Right: A sail-like sunshade for possible use as a sunshield for the Skylab Orbital Workshop is being fabricated in the GE building across the street from JSC. The material is being fed through the sewing machine. Working on the sunshade from left are Dale Gentry of GE, JSC's Elizabeth Gauldin, Alyene Baker of GE and JSC's James Barnett.

JSC Photos



Skylab II mission set to lift off from Florida

(Reprinted from the Space News Roundup May 25, 1973)

The first manned Skylab mission is scheduled to get underway at 8 a.m. today. The mission plan calls for liftoff, followed by rendezvous, soft docking for a meal and a possible standup space walk. The launching of Skylab 2, originally scheduled for May 15, was delayed because a micrometeorite shield was ripped off during last Monday's launch of the Skylab unmanned station. This mishap damaged the Orbital Workshop solar cell array and reduced by about half the amount of electrical power available to the space station.

Mission controllers felt that with the solar panels not operating properly, the mission could be carried out for the full 28 days, but with a reduced schedule during the latter part of the mission.

The micrometeorite shield also provided thermal protection for the Orbital Workshop; its loss caused serious heating problems.

Numerous options were considered in attempts to solve the crippled space station's heating problems. One method involved scientific airlock deployment; the other, an Extravehicular Activity from the command module.

The astronauts took off earlier this week for Marshall Space Flight Center at Huntsville, Alabama, where they went through simulations of how they would shield the space craft from the sun's rays. They left Huntsville for Cape Kennedy Tuesday night.

In a press briefing at JSC earlier this week, Life Sciences Director Richard Johnston revealed the astronauts by name who would handle the various methods of deploying the sunshield to cool the overheated workshop:

"The stand-up EVA Weitz will perform; the deployment of the Marshall sail will be Joe Kerwin, and I think the pilot, Conrad and Weitz will go down and work with the deployment of the parasol or any other airlock heat shield devices."

Flight Director Neil Hutchinson explained the EVA this way:

"The EVA is being done for a couple of reasons and I don't know which one you place more importance in, but one is to clear away any possible debris that's in the vicinity of the place we have to deploy this thing. We're not totally sure exactly how much of that meteoroid shield might be around, and of course we have to have a clean area to be able to deploy it. The other thing of course, we are still hopeful we can get solar array wing 1 out."

The high temperature within the habitation area caused some concern about possible food spoilage. Richard Johnston said Tuesday that he had tested foods that were exposed to similar high temperatures and anticipated no problems with the food on the space station.

The crew will sleep in the Command Module for at least the first two nights and is scheduled to spend Saturday morning checking the workshop for contamination.



Gilruth Center News

Volleyball, basketball: Registration is currently being accepted for the summer leagues.

Softball: Registration is under way for men's double-header softball league. Cost is \$275 per team for a six to seven week season.

NASA Fitness Challenge: Runs through Aug. 31. Call x30301 for more information.

Complete Weight Control Program: Starts June 24 with sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information call x30301 or x30302.

Hatha Yoga: A stress relieving, stretching and breathing exercise routine to unite body, mind and spirit. Classes meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays. Cost is \$40 for eight weeks.

Nutrition intervention program: A six-week program to learn more about the role diet and nutrition play in health, including lectures, private consultations with a dietitian and blood analysis. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For more information call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving: One-day course is offered once a month. Next class is June 21. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25.

Stamp club: Meets at 7 p.m. every second and fourth Monday in Rm. 216.

Weight safety: Required courses for employees wishing to use the weight room will be offered from 8-9:30 p.m. June 12 and 26. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. Additional family members are \$50.

Exercise: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

Aikido: Martial arts class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Cost is \$35 per month. New classes begin the first of each month.

Aerobics: Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks.

Ballroom dancing: Beginner classes meet from 7-8:15 p.m. Thursdays. Intermediate and advanced classes meet from 8:15-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

Softball challenge turns wet for EVA groups

A challenge is a challenge and rain did not deter some JSC employees from finding out which EVA office was best at softball.

Responding to a challenge from the EVA Projects Office, Mission Operations' EVA Systems Branch and Engineering's Crew and Thermal System's EVA Branch recently slugged it out on the softball field sloshing their way through a three game challenge to determine the best softball team.

When the mud cleared, the EVA Project Office's Emu's withstood the staunch challenge from the youngsters of Mission Operations and the veterans of Engineering. The Emu's beat Mission Operations 15-1 and Engineering 12-3.

The winning team included Mary

Chesler, Chuck Franca, Milt Heflin, Robbie LaBrier, Matt Leonard, Mike Mankin, Don McMonagle, Al Morrey, Nancy Patrick, Dale Roberts and John Russo.



Mission Operations team members were Ame Aamodt, Colin Anglin, Scott Bleisath, Paul Boehm, Greg Cruse, Anna Estelle, Alan Groskreutz, George Guirgus, Kerri Knotts, Jeff Patrick, Brian Peavey, Daryl Schuck, Ed Tom and Rob Williams. Engineer's team included Ketan Chhipwadia, Susan Cupples, Scott Cupples, Dom Del

Rosso, Frank Hernandez, Glen Lutz, Aaron Lutz, Joey Marmolejo, Hiep Nguyen, Dave Oswald, Steve Poulos, Joe Settles and Lee Willis.

The games were umpired by Calvin Schomburg of the Systems Engineering Office.

Ticket Window

The following discount tickets are available for purchase in the Bldg. 3 and Bldg. 11 Exchange Stores. The Bldg. 3 store is open from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and the Bldg. 11 store is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday. For more information, call x37362 in Bldg. 3 or x35350 or x30990 in Bldg. 11.

Bus trip: June 15 to Coshatta Indian Reservation Casino. Cost is \$5.

Belize trip: June 22-27. Cost is \$999 per person.

Costa Rica trip: good through June 30. Cost is \$935 per person.

Houston Astros Baseball: Field box seats \$18. Astros vs. Chicago Cubs 7 p.m. June 21. Purchase tickets by June 13. Astros vs. Cleveland Indians 7 p.m. July 2. Purchase tickets by June 23.

EAA cruises: Seven-day cruise to Caribbean leaving from Houston in November. Prices vary depending on cabin choices. For more information call Dick McMinimy at x34037.

Astroworld: Early bird tickets are \$18.25 and must be used by May 31. Season pass \$56.75.

Moody Gardens: Tickets are \$9.50 for 2 of 4 events.

Space Center Houston: Adult \$8.95; children (4-11) \$6.40.

Seaworld: Adult \$27.25; \$18.25 children (3-11).

Schlitterbahn: Tickets are \$20.25 for adults, \$17.50 for children.

Splashtown: Early bird tickets are \$11.50.

Movie discounts: General Cinema, \$4.75; AMC Theater, \$4.50; Sony Loew's Theater, \$4.75.

JSC logo shirts: Polo style, \$23. T-shirt, \$10.

Stamps: Book of 20, \$6.40.

Orbit: The book "Orbit" by Jay Apt, Mike Helfert and Justin Wilkinson is on sale for \$28.

Metro tickets: Passes, books and single tickets available.



Above center: Milt Heflin of the EVA Projects Office shows the results of his slides during the EVA Softball Challenge. The EVA Project Office beat out Mission Operation's EVA Systems Branch and Engineering's Crew and Thermal Systems EVA Spacesuit Branch for bragging rights as best EVA softball team. Above: Some of the participants were, kneeling from left, Joey Marmolejo, Paul Boehm, Kerri Knotts, Anna Estelle, Ketan Chhipwadia, Milt Heflin, John Russo, Jeff Patrick and Don McMonagle. Middle row from left, Daryl Schuck, Rob Williams, George Guirgus, Scott Bleisath, Calvin Schomburg, Mike Mankin, Matt Leonard, Nancy Patrick and Robbie LaBrier. Back row from left, Dom Del Rosso, Ed Tom, Colin Anglin, Alan Groskreutz, Arne Aamodt, Brian Peavey, Chuck Franca, Al Morrey and Dale Roberts.